

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: USTSJC, TS

SUBJ: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION: AGENDA

REF : STATE 234640

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT WASHINGTON REVISION OF AGENDA FORWARDED REFTEL BY AND LARGE ACCEPTABLE TO GOT WITH EXCEPTIONS NOTED BELOW EVEN THOUGH SEVERAL POINTS REINTRODUCED WHICH TUNISIANS FEEL MORE APPROPRIATE AS TALKING POINTS FOR US SIDE. GOT SPECIFIC COMMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. GOT WANTS SUBCOMMISSION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO PRECEDE SUBCOMMISSION ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT ON FORMAL AGENDA. MOFA OFFICIAL ARGUED IT IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT THAT IN FORMAL REVIEW OF SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED THAT WE LIST OUR TRADITIONAL AND BEST-KNOWN FORM OF COOPERATION FIRST AND THEN AREAS OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT WHERE WE WILL STRESS NEW POSSIBILITIES. HE RECOGNIZED THAT REVERSAL IN AGENDA OF LITTLE PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE SINCE BOTH SUBCOMMISSIONS TO MEET SIMULTANEOUSLY. THIS REVERSAL WOULD ALSO OCCUR IN CLOSING PLENARY IN REPORT OF TWO SUBCOMMISSIONS.

B. REGARDING SUBCOMMISSION ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT:

(1) INSERT "INFORMATION ON" BEFORE "TUNISIAN TARIFF, FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND BIDDING REGULATIONS," ITEM II B 1 D, TO MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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CLEAR THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE IS FOR TUNISIAN SIDE TO INFORM

U.S. SIDE ON THESE MATTERS RATHER THAN IMPLY THEY ARE OPEN FOR REVISION.

(2) BREAK ITEM "E" IN SECTION II B 1 INTO TWO PARTS AS FOLLOWS: "E MULTILATERAL TRUE NEGOTIATIONS, UJVS.A1974 TRADE ACT (U.S. - DILLER)" AND "F, TUNISIAN-EC RELATIONSHIP (TUNISIA)." (GOT DOES NOT WISH TO LINK TWO ITEMS AND BELIEVES TUNISIANS SHOULD INITIATE DISCUSSION ON RELATIONS WITH EC).

(3) CHANGE WORD "ABILITY" TO "FACILITIES" IN ITEM II B 2 C.

(4) ADD "(U.S. - PARSKY - MCCALLUM)" AFTER ITEM II C 2.

(5) IN ITEM II C, ADD NEW ITEM 3: "U.S. INVESTMENT IN TUNISIA" AFTER ITEM 2 AND BEFORE SUB ITEMS "A" THROUGH "F", (GOT WISHES PARTICULARLY TO HAVE DISCUSSION OF GENERAL TUNISIAN INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND ATTITUDE OF U.S. PRIVATE INVESTORS BEFORE DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC UKVS. INVESTMENT IN TUNISIA AND PROMOTION PROGRAMS).

(6) REVERSE SUB ITEMS "E" AND "F" IN II C 2 IN ORDER DISCUSS API FOLLOWING OPIC.

C. CLOSING PLENARY:

(1) ESTABLISH QUESTION OF U.S.-OWNED DINARS AS NEW ITEM C IN ORDER TO ACCORD IT SAME TREATMENT AS REVIEW OF CULTURAL RELATIONS IN CLOSING PLENARY.

(2) OMIT IV-C "U.S. - TUNISIAN SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION" IN CLOSING PLENARY SINCE THERE WILL BE FULL OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SUCH COOPERATION IN LAST ITEM OF SUBCOMMISSION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH SFCP-FINANCED COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. (WE MAY BE ABLE TO PREVAIL UPON GOT TO RETAIN THIS ITEM IF OES CAN SHOW THAT PROPOSED PRESENTATION IS BOTH DIFFERENT AND COVERS MUCH BROADER GROUND THAN WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN SUBCOMMISSION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE NOTE THAT GOT ENVISAGES THAT CLOSING PLENARY WILL BE AT HIGHER LEVEL THAN SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS AND HENCE DOES UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT WISH TO SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON MATTERS NOT ALREADY COVERED IN SUBCOMMISSION MEETINGS.)

(3) MISCELLANEOUS WOULD NOW APPEAR AS SUB SECTION D AND INCLUDE ONLY ABMC CEMETERY AGREEMENT. REMAINING TWO AZEMS WOULD BE CHANGED TO E AND F ACCORDINGLY.

D. ONLY CHANGE IN SUBCOMMISSION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AGENDA IS INSISTENCE THAT PHRASE "INCLUDING OTHER SOURCES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, BOTH WESTERN AND ARAB", BE DROPPED FROM III A, INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY MR. AMMAR. TUNISIANS FEEL STRONGLY THAT INCLUDING REFERENCE TO OTHER AID WHEN MEETING IS BEING CONVOKED TO DISCUSS U.S. ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA IMPLIES A CASTING ABOUT FOR OTHER SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE TO REPLACE U.S. AID BEFORE MEETINGS EVEN TAKE PLACE. MINISTRY OFFICIAL ASSURED EMBASSY THAT AMMAR WILL DEFINITELY DISCUSS OTHER SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE (PRIMARILY TO POINT OUT REDUCTIONS FROM TRADITIONAL DONORS AND FAILURE OF ARAB AID TO MEET EXPECTATIONS) BUT DOES NOT WANT MATTER INSCRIBED IN FORMAL AGENDA.

2. MOFA IS STILL CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT ON SFCP COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH. HOWEVER, SUMMER LEAVES, RAMADAN AND DELAYS IN DISTRIBUTION FRENCH DRAFT OF TEXT HAVE PREVENTED MOFA FROM OBTAINING NECESSARY CLEARANCES OF RESPONSES FROM TUNISIAN AGENCIES IN TIME TO PERMIT PREPARATION OF FINAL TEXT FOR SIGNING AT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING. THEY PLAN DISCUSS REACTIONS TO AGREEMENT DURING SUBCOMMISSION MEETING.
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